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The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, I live in Ventura County. I am asking you to support keeping AM radio available in cars as a last-ditch emergency information lifeline by supporting S. 1669. When tragedy strikes, AM radio serves as the emergency backbone for the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to inform communities of impending dangers and to direct people at risk to safety. When other means of communication are disabled or impaired, and/or the lights go out, AM radio, and only AM radio can be that vital link to information that can save lives and property.

Unfortunately, some auto manufacturers have announced plans to remove AM radio from their vehicle dashboards for cost concerns. Automakers suggest subscription services might be a workable replacement for AM radio, but that is not the case since digital warning systems depend on the Internet or cell service, and most methods the public receives warnings rely on utility power. The internet and cell towers are often the first things to fail in emergencies due to damage or heavy use, and we know what weather, wildfires and other emergencies can do to take utility power down. Even if they remain active, streaming services can be costly (not free like AM radio), require prior registration, depend on utility power, and are not required by the FCC to pass emergency alert information on to a public at risk.

In times of emergency, a dashboard car radio powered by the vehicle battery is often the only working source of news and alerts when the Internet is down, cell service fails, and utility power is cut off. Removing AM radios from dashboards will reduce our ability to reliably and timely communicate Emergency Alerts and AMBER child abduction messages to the public. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) says the success of today's public warning system hinges on keeping AM radio in dashboards. Senate Bill 1669, the "AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act", would require all new vehicles to include AM radio at no additional charge. Since alert technology is always advancing, this bill will also direct the Government Accountability Office to study whether there are or will be emerging communication systems that might be as effective as AM radio during emergencies. Right now, none have been identified.

I urge support for Senate Bill 1669 to ensure AM radio will stay in vehicle dashboards as long as it remains a crucial and currently irreplaceable EAS resource as the only nationwide mass public warning lifeline when all else fails.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_

[\(include your address\)](#)

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